

### **REMARKS**

The Examiner's communication dated December 28, 2006 has been received and carefully considered. In conformance with the applicable statutory requirements, this paper constitutes a complete reply and/or a bona fide attempt to advance the application to allowance. Specifically, claims 22 and 23 have been amended. In addition, detailed arguments in support of patentability are presented. Reexamination and/or reconsideration of the application as amended are respectfully requested.

### **Summary of the Office Action**

Claims 1-19 and 21 are allowed.

Claims 22 and 23 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hongu et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,384,375).

### **Claims Distinguish Patentably Over the Reference(s) of Record**

**Claim 22** calls for an electric arc welder comprising an output lead connected to one power source of a plurality of power sources and a transmitter transmitting command signals with a coded identification signal unique to only said one power source of the plurality of power sources on the output lead. As indicated in the preceding section, claim 22 was rejected in the most recent Office Action as being obvious in view of Hongu et al. The Examiner specifically cites Col. 9, lines 40-67, of Hongu in support of his rejection of claim 22. Applicant respectfully asserts that Hongu et al. fails to disclose or fairly suggest an electric arc welder comprising a transmitter transmitting command signals with a coded identification signal unique to only one power source of a plurality of power sources on an output lead.

Particularly, Hongu et al. indicates that a model identification signal is issued by power source 10 and received by robot controller 1A. After receiving the model identification signal, the robot controller 1A takes certain action but is not disclosed or fairly suggested as having a transmitter transmitting command signals with a coded identification signal unique to only one power source of a plurality of power sources. Rather, the robot controller 1A simply prohibits selection of welding method, electrode diameter and welding material not applicable to the power source 10. While the robot controller 1A does issue

signals to the power source 10, such as a store data request signal, there is no disclosure of such issued stored data request signal being a command signal having a coded identification signal unique to only one power source of a plurality of power sources. For at least this reason, Applicant respectfully asserts that claim 22 is in condition for allowance.

**Claim 23**, as amended, calls for a wire feeder comprising a transmitter for transmitting coded command signals that each include a coded identification signal unique to one power source of a plurality of power sources so as to be received by only the one power source of the plurality of power sources connected to the wire feeder for operation of the one power source in accordance with the coded command signals transmitted from the wire feeder. As already discussed herein, Hongu et al. (the reference applied against claim 23) does not disclose a wire feeder including a transmitter that transmits coded command signals each including a coded identification signal unique to one power source of a plurality of power sources so as to be received by only the one power source of the plurality of power sources connected to the wire feeder for operation of the power source in accordance with the coded command signals transmitted from the wire feeder. Rather, Hongu et al. discloses the power source 10 issuing a model identification signal to a robot controller 1A. Based on this received signal, the robot controller "prohibits selection of welding method, electrodiometer and welding material not applicable to the AWPS 10." According to Hongu et al., the robot controller issues a stored data request signal to the power source 10, but there is no indication that this stored data request signal contains coded command signals each including a coded identification signal unique to the one power source connected to the wire feeder.

Accordingly, for at least this reason, it is respectfully submitted that claim 23 is in condition for allowance.

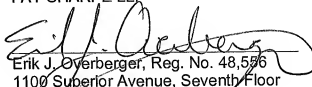
### **CONCLUSION**

All formal and informal matters having been addressed, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. It is believed that the claim changes clearly place the application in condition for allowance, defining over any fair teaching attributable to the references of record. Alternatively, if the Examiner is of the view that the application is not in clear condition for allowance, it is requested that the Examiner

telephone the undersigned for purposes of conducting a telephone interview to resolve any outstanding differences. Accordingly, an early notice of allowance is earnestly solicited.

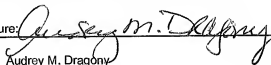
Respectfully submitted,

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Date

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